TRANSCEAR'S GUIDE FOR CONDUCTING A HAZMAT FLOW STUDY

The following eight-step guide on how to conduct a hazardous materials transportation study may prove helpful for Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) wanting to conduct such a study for their county or a specific area within the county. This guide was developed by Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) which is an outreach program that was developed to assist communities that do not host a major chemical facility but have major transportation routes within their jurisdictions. TRANSCAER is sponsored by the chemical manufacturing, distribution and transportation industries. This guide can be used for HMEP grant funded studies as well as those that are funded from other sources.

1. Write a statement of purpose.

   The statement of purpose should include the goals of the flow study, what data will be collected, from whom, who will analyze the data, and the methods that will be used to complete the remaining seven steps in the process.

2. Review local maps and analyze transportation patterns.

   Use local road and rail maps, coupled with existing knowledge of the transportation modes used within the area, to determine the routes used to ship hazardous materials through, into, out of, and within the area. Highway, rail, pipeline, and air freight routes, as well as routes to and from facilities should be considered.

3. Identify the hazardous materials moved through or within the community.

   Using information from Tier II reports and chemical users and shippers, identify the type and amount of hazardous materials transported thorough, into, out of or within the community.

4. Conduct highway flow surveys.

   Traffic flow, especially on key routes, should be determined.

5. Review major accident and incident history for the community.

   Review any incident data that is available from local and state police files, state transportation agencies and federal agencies.

6. List vulnerable facilities.

   Identify and rank vulnerable facilities, such as hospitals, schools, and nursing homes to help emergency planners and responders if an incident occurs, especially if evacuation is necessary. The type and level of emergency planning that should be done for each transportation mode should be based on this evaluation.

7. Identify potential accident areas and develop accident scenarios.

   Using the information gained in the previous steps, identify possible accident locations and scenarios.

8. Use the data to assist in emergency planning.

   Beginning with a basic map of the area, develop overlay maps on transparency sheets. A separate sheet should be used for fixed facilities and each transportation mode. Separate colors should be used for each route. The set of maps will give the big picture of how hazardous materials are transported within the community, and should help with emergency planning.